

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SWF-02 EB-11 AGR-20 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

EUR-25 NEA-14 RSC-01 L-03 COME-00 AID-20 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 SS-20 NSC-07 SP-03 OMB-01

DRC-01 OIC-04 H-03 /198 W
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R 311700Z JUL 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7556

INFORUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 867

UNCLAS GENEVA 4987

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC, EGEN, UN

SUBJECT: 57TH ECOSOC-PLenary SESSION-ITEM 9-WORLD FOOD
CONFERENCE

REF: GENEVA 4986

1. US STATMENT REFERRED TO IN REFTel IS AS FOLLOWS:

UNITED STATES STATEMENT

PLenary SESSION, JULY 31, 1974

ITEM 9-WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

REPORT AND RESOLUTION ON FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDES

MY DELEGATION, WHEN ITEM 9 OF OUR AGENDA WAS FIRST
DISCUSSED, HAD OCCASION TO COMMENT ON THE SERIOUSNESS
OF THE WORLD FOOD SITUATION AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE
FORTHCOMING WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. WE NOW HAVE BEFORE
US A SUMMARY REPORT, IN DOCUMENT E/L.1609, OF THE FAO
WHICH, ALONG WITH THE ASSOCIATED RESOLUTION 1/63 PASSED
BY THE FAO COUNCIL AT ITS MOST RECENT MEETING, REQUIRES
OUR BODY TO FOCUS ON ANOTHER, CLOSELY RELATED ASPECT OF
THE WORLD FOOD SITUATION, NAMELY THE QUESTION OF ENSUR-
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ING THAT FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDES IN SUFFICIENT QUANTI-

TIES ARE PROVIDED AROUND THE WORLD TO ENABLE MEETING THE FAO RESOLUTION, IN DOCUMENT E/L.1611, WHICH ENDORSES THE FAO RESOLUTION AND WHICH CALLS UPON DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO TAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS WITH REGARD TO HELPING ALLEVIATE FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDE SHORTAGES.

THE UNITED STATES ENDORSED FAO RESOLUTION 1/63 WHEN IT WAS PASSED BY THE FAO COUNCIL; AND WE NOTE THAT THE DRAFT RESOLUTION BEFORE US NOW, CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT E/L.1611, IS IN MOST IMPORTANT RESPECTS THE SAME AS THE FAO RESOLUTION, AND ACCORDINGLY WE SUPPORT ITS PASSAGE BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL.

MR. PRESIDENT, I WOULD LIKE TO INDICATE THE STEPS TAKEN BY MY GOVERNMENT WHICH ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE RESOLUTION BEFORE US. OF THE SEVERAL OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS IN THIS RESOLUTION, THOSE WHICH SPECIFICALLY PERTAIN TO THE SO-CALLED INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, OF WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS ONE, ARE:

- PARA 1(B), WHICH CALLS UPON US TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FAO SCHEME;
- PARA 1(C), WHICH APPEALS TO US TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FERTILIZER POOL;
- PARA 1(D)(II), WHICH INVITES US TO KEEP THE FAO INFORMED REGULARLY OF OUR FERTILIZER AVAILABILITIES AND PRODUCTION PLANS;
- PARA 2, WHICH REQUESTS THAT WE MAKE FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDES AVAILABLE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AT REASONABLE PRICES;
- PARA 3, WHICH URGES US TO ENSURE THAT OUR LOW PRIORITY USES OF FERTILIZER ARE REDUCED TO A MINIMUM;
- AND PARA 4, WHICH CALLS UPON US TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ON THE SOFTEST POSSIBLE TERMS, TO IMPROVE FERTILIZER PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

THESE PARAGRAPHS REPRESENT THE BULK OF THE OPERATIVE PART OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION, WITH THE BALANCE BEING LARGELY PROCEDURAL IN NATURE. LIKE MANY OF THE RESOLUTIONS BEFORE THE COUNCIL, THIS IS ONE SPONSORED BY THE LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND DIRECTED IN THE MAIN TO

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ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

WE NEED NOT AT THIS TIME REPORT ON A PARAGRAPH-BY-PARAGRAPH BASIS HOW THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY BEEN RESPONSIVE TO THE OPERATIVE PARTS OF THE RESOLUTION BEFORE US. WE SHOULD LIKE, HOWEVER, TO CALL ATTENTION TO A NUMBER OF STEPS TAKEN BY MY GOVERNMENT, WHICH CLEARLY INDICATE A HIGH DEGREE OF RESPONSIVENESS

-AND WHICH CLEARLY ARE IN ACCORD WITH THE RESOLUTION:

1. AS PART OF OUR BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, FOR EXAMPLE, MY GOVERNMENT IS NOW OFFERING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHERE FERTILIZER PLANTS ARE OPERATING BELOW CAPACITY; AND WE ARE ON RECORD AS WILLING TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENT USE OF FERTILIZERS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES;
2. MY GOVERNMENT IS ALSO ON RECORD FOR ITS WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE TO PLANNED RESEARCH INTO THE USE OF FERTILIZERS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY FOR TROPICAL SOILS WHERE THERE MAY BE A GREAT POTENTIAL FOR INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION;
3. UNITED STATES FERTILIZER PLANTS ARE OPERATING NEAR CAPACITY, AND WHILE THESE PLANTS NORMALLY SUPPLY ONLY A DOMESTIC DEMAND, THE UNITED STATES HAS STATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE URGENT NEED OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR INCREASED SUPPLIES INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE;
4. THE UNITED STATES HAS ALSO STATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO INCREASE ITS CONCESSIONAL FINANCING OF FERTILIZER PURCHASES IN APPROPRIATE CASES WHERE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE ABLE TO FIND SUPPLIES BUT ARE UNABLE TO PAY FOR THEM;
5. FINALLY, MY GOVERNMENT HAS REQUESTED THE AMERICAN CONGRESS TO INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BILATERAL AID FOR FOOD PRODUCTION, INCLUDING FERTILIZER ASSISTANCE.

MY DELEGATION, MR. PRESIDENT, PROPOSES AS AMENDMENT TO OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 1(A) OF THE RESOLUTION SO ABLY INTRODUCED BY THE DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA, WHICH WE BELIEVE WILL IMPROVE THE LANGUAGE OF THE DRAFT.
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THIS AMENDMENT REPLACES PARAGRAPH 1(A) AS FOLLOWS:

REEMPHASIZES THE NEED FOR IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FERTILIZER SUPPLY SCHEME."

THE REASON FOR THIS AMENDMENT IS THAT THE FAO COUNCIL HAS ALREADY INSTRUCTED THE FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL TO IMPLEMENT THE FERTILIZER SUPPLY SCHEME WITH URGENCY.

I WOULD HOPE THE CO-SPONSORS COULD AGREE TO THIS TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.

THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.
DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, FERTILIZER INDUSTRY, RESOLUTIONS, AMENDMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, FERTILIZERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GENEVA04987
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740208-1113
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974073/aaaaaclr.tel
Line Count: 169
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: GENEVA 4986
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2002 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <22 JAN 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 57TH ECOSOC-PLENARY SESSION-ITEM 9-WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE
TAGS: EGEN, ECOSOC, UN, FAO, UNWFC
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005